



Department of Geography

Postgraduate Research Scholarships

2026-27

Applications are now open for a range of postgraduate research scholarships at the Department of Geography, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

- **MIC Doctoral Award:** fee waiver + €12,600 annual stipend
- **Department of Geography Postgraduate Award (TBC):** fee waiver + €11,900 annual stipend
- Several other PGR awards valued at: fee waiver + €6,900 annual stipend

Scholarships are eligible for Masters (MA by research) or Doctoral (PhD) projects, with funding provided for up to three years (plus part-funding provided in the fourth year for the Geography Postgrad Award) and fees waived for up to four years (for the PhD programme).

The deadline for applications is 12:00 (Irish time) on 24 April 2026.

Further information on the PGR scholarship schemes is available on the Mary Immaculate College website: <https://www.mic.ul.ie/research/research-graduate-school/supports/scholarships-funding-fees?index=0>

Applicants are encouraged to contact prospective supervisors (see details below) at the earliest opportunity.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

The Department of Geography at Mary Immaculate College is a compact yet dynamic department within the institution's Faculty of Arts. The department has an excellent research profile with a strong record in securing external research funding and publishing research findings in leading international journals. Members of the department have held leadership roles in professional associations, including the Regional Studies Association, the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society, the Irish Quaternary Association and the Geographical Society of Ireland. All staff members are research active, and have successfully supervised postgraduate research at Masters and/or PhD level. Faculty members and postgraduate students within the department form a strong and mutually supportive community of scholars, into which new postgraduate students are integrated.

Further information about the department is available at:

<http://www.mic.ul.ie/academicdepts/geography/Pages/default.aspx>

STAFF RESEARCH INTERESTS

Professor Paul Aplin

<https://www.mic.ul.ie/staff/3693-paul-aplin>

Remote sensing of environmental distributions, with particular focus on spatial and temporal scales of observation, methods of land cover characterization, and application to ecological problems, specializing in forest environments.

Contact paul.aplin@mic.ul.ie for informal discussion about PGR project ideas.

Dr Julian Bloomer

<https://www.mic.ul.ie/staff/623-julian-bloomer>

Human-environment relations; political ecology; energy geographies; livelihoods; geographies of illicit networks and trade.

Contact julian.bloomer@mic.ul.ie for informal discussion about PGR project ideas.

Dr Helene Bradley Davies

<https://www.mic.ul.ie/staff/361-helene-bradley-davies>

Society and settlement in medieval and 17th century Ireland; social and spatial change in 19th century Irish cities, with particular reference to Limerick city; geographies of death and burial in 18th and 19th century Ireland; historical archives & cartography.

Contact helene.bradley@mic.ul.ie for informal discussion about PGR project ideas.

Dr Angela Cloke-Hayes

<https://www.mic.ul.ie/staff/363-angela-cloke-hayes>

Marine micropalaeontology; Quaternary planktonic foraminifera; Palaeoceanography and natural climate variability of the Mediterranean Sea.

Contact angela.hayes@mic.ul.ie for informal discussion about PGR project ideas.

Dr Catherine Dalton

<https://www.mic.ul.ie/staff/362-catherine-dalton>

Water Quality; River & Lake Catchments; Sediment Reconstructions (Palaeolimnology); Quaternary Environments; Rivers Trusts; Citizen Science.

Contact catherine.dalton@mic.ul.ie for informal discussion about PGR project ideas.

Dr John Morrissey

<https://www.mic.ul.ie/staff/364-john-morrissey>

Sustainable development, particularly socio-technical transitions, low-carbon development and challenges of low carbon economy for urban and coastal communities. My work is informed by environmental economic geography with a focus on socio-spatial differentiation of transition processes.

Contact john.morrissey@mic.ul.ie for informal discussion about PGR project ideas.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The scholarships consist of a stipend of €12,600, €11,900 or €6,900 per annum, and a full waiver of tuition fees (up to the value of €6,425). The fee waiver will be linked to any increase in fees over the term of the Scholarship. The PhD programme is for a maximum of four years, and the Masters award for a maximum of two years, commencing in September 2026 or January 2027. The continuation of the award is subject to annual review of the post-holder's progress under MIC's procedures for review of postgraduate research. For PhD, applicants must hold a Masters qualification in Geography or a cognate discipline. In exceptional circumstances, applicants with a first class honours Bachelors degree may be considered. For MA, applicants must have at least a 2:1 qualification in a relevant Bachelors degree. Selection will be by a board consisting of members of the Department of Geography, Mary Immaculate College, and will be based on the written application and interview.

The Geography scholarships appointment and management processes follow the overall MIC approach – see the information available at <https://www.mic.ul.ie/research/research-graduate-school/supports/scholarships-funding-fees?index=0> for full terms and conditions.